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Dissection

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THE
DISSECTION;

OR

AN EXAMINATION OF

Mr. INGRAM'S BLOW,

(Relative to the Death of the late Mr. CLARKE,)

In which are contained

Some pertinent CASES from MORGAGNI
and Mr. POTT;

WITH

Some REMARKS ON Mr. BROMFIELD'S Vindi-
cation of himself;

AND

A brief Account of his BEHAVIOUR towards
Mr. AYLETT, Surgeon, at *Windsor*.

L O N D O N :

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1769.



T H E

DISSECTION, &c.

TH E present time affording much conversation relating to the unhappy affair of Mr. Clarke's death, as having received it from a blow which he met with at Brentford the 8th of December last ; and as, much in different companies hath not only, by various orders of men, been spoken, but written, concerning it ; the pen of one who wishes peace to all, and that justice may be done to their understandings, without any impeachment of bias or party, is thus led to offer a few thoughts to the public, which he hopes from their perusal will convince that he

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is not actuated to write or speak either by influence or profit ; and lest any one may uncharitably suppose the contrary, he now declares, with a heart devoid of every prejudice, that his candour is too great to suffer him to impose so much upon his own judgment (more or less) as not to speak sincerely for so grand a purpose as universal satisfaction.

The conviction of Balfe and Mac-Quirk, however just and right, was the object of great consternation to the people in power, and to those who were the primary cause of the confusion of that day on which Mr. Clarke received the blow ; who, shocked at the consequence, no doubt were indefatigable in their efforts to preserve the immediate instruments of their guilt, which instruments certainly must have suffered long ago, had they not prevailed in their measures ; and though humanity would not thirst after the lives of two such experienced wretches, yet does every thinking man wish not to sacrifice his senses in a case much less doubtful than has industriously been laid before one of the best princes that ever graced the British throne.

The pardon of these culprits being in consequence of the report of the examining surgeons, it was very proper that Mr

Foot

Foot should appeal to the public at large in the manner he did, for had he remained silent, it must have been concluded, that the pardon was founded upon proper principles; but from a review of Mr. Foot's conduct (excluding all the advantage which was taken of him by those who promised Judaically that no use should be made of the manuscript he signed) it plainly appears that doubts were fostered where certainty most prevailed; and notwithstanding what Mr. Dale Ingram hath endeavoured to say against it, it is believed that his thesis in many parts of his late pamphlet will in this, meet with some refutation, which will not so much dishonour his pen, as it will shew how far he hath been stimulated, as a man of *reputation*, to pacify the world, and tune their disquiet minds, respecting the errors of Mr. Foot.

Had Mr. Ingram thought more of making *Bosom* and *Magnesia* at Epsom than writing his famous *Blow* he would have been esteemed for his silence, for though he may be a man of ingenuity, his late attempt has rather tended to perplex than elucidate any one point or circumstance of Mr. Foot, as will presently appear.

Mr. Ingram may expect to be treated like a gentleman, as is intended herein, but he must not arrogate to himself so great a

superiority of abilities as he hath, without hearing, with due patience and temper, an answer ; for it is not intended in this paper that persons should be so much considered as causes, which seems hitherto, to have had the least effect ; how wretched therefore may we say is our situation, while we find persons existing in the legislature of this kingdom, who are able to subvert causes and laws ? But digression aside, it is only asked whether the proceedings in favour of these culprits are not an absolute breach of that law which ought to be held sacred when the temporal one is violated, that is, by not taking the blood of him who sheddeth the blood of another.

There is great reason to suspect that Mr. Ingram's intention was profit and interest in the planning his *Blow*, which in the truest sense is a hurtful one for his repute, and not that of obviating facts, though to palliate his chief design he luckily in this case has had a shadow of success, because he has assumed the strongest side of faction, and had he deigned to have arranged his own ideas, without intending to impeach the judgment of Mr. Foot, he might have weighed much more in the opinion of some of his own well-wishers than he has ; for
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it is conjectured that the world is not ignorant of the multifarious adventures of Mr. Ingram as a man who is fond of *variety*, and therefore *inter alia* his last is thought worthy a place, and however advantageous he has made it is entirely to himself.

Mr. Ingram speaks of reputation, from which he must mean, in his profession, if so, he need fear little of its being hurtful to him by any thing referred to in his pamphlet, since it is imagined, that a man cannot be very eminent, who is from home a considerable time together, leaving no servant in his house, but, by a written paper on his door, refers all persons to leave their business with his neighbour; this certainly does not shew him to be a man of great business, though it makes him more capable of doing that which cannot hurt a shallow repute.

Mr. Ingram has less to fear because the ministry and the Examiners are with him; Mr. Foot is not Mr. Ingram, he is only a surgeon of regular education, and approved abilities; he was called upon to look upon Mr. Clarke; Mr. Foot spoke according to judgment and appearances, and to be sure, had he given it as his opinion that Clarke's wound arose from a fever, or from a scratch of the pin with which
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he fastened on his night cap, he might have prevented Mr. Ingram's *Blow*, but as the affair required him to be serious, and as he could not expect or foresee how far government would have their own way, whether right or wrong, nor that any scheme of Mr. Ingram's would have produced his last essay, he acted upon principles of justice, in which he glories, and which, with all good men, will ever support him, notwithstanding all weak efforts to crush his credit.

Mr. Ingram and his *Blow* considered, neither the one nor the other can be wondered at, since there is an inseparable semblance between them both; the one is ingenuous, and the other the same, and like all other fickle adventures will they meet with the same fate, and die unnoticed.

To make this pamphlet evincing, facts must speak clearly; to which end, reason suitable to the plainest conception digested from every circumstance for and against the present important case, must necessarily be the pursuit, and the assignments of Mr. Ingram's reasons, his syllogisms, and his inferences, duly weighed; the substance hereof must avail itself by force of terms undisguised, and by common symptoms and similar cases, which
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will not altogether be entitled to the name of refutation to Mr. Ingram's paper, because no real matter is found therein; the whole including barely, some few trite observations, together with insinuating compliments to Mr. Foot, calculated the more it is presumed, to *cram* upon the publick a work, which otherwise might have fallen lower in esteem than it has.

Mr. Ingram certainly must have a very great dependance upon himself to attempt a work of the kind, particularly after he had experienced the sense of many learned men, who by no means are to be placed with the blood-thirsty, or unskilful, no more than they merit the want of justice; and with some deference to Mr. Ingram, had his work been not quite so dictatorial, nor talked so much of good name, he might have been revered now as he was before, however much that was; for he should consider, whenever a man makes himself public, particularly in so flagrant an affair as the present, he immediately puts himself upon the country, who will exercise an undoubted right of examining and searching into his candour in general, his abilities and situation in life; and as either in any wise clash with the other, he will be thought the less of, therefore

therefore Mr. Ingram should have considered thus, however immaterial it may have been to him, or the point in view. For tho' it matters not who Mr. Ingram is, so that his doctrine be sound, yet in these times of faction, the people are apt to suspect a man that writes against them; it is said *people*, because power and government ever are divided from the people, when those men bear sway who daily oppress them, harass the truth, and, as Thompson says, "lengthen simple justice into trade," and though a work may be of some merit, still when we have reason to believe that it is not wrote meerly to pacify, but for private views, the very belief is enough to contaminate it.

Personal reflection upon Mr. Ingram is out of the case, he is a man of merit, or rather has been, when discoveries were inferior to the present times, so far he is blameless, but the errors of his present ideas have convinced us, that he is not a man of that consequence which he himself hath arrogated.

It is observed in the beginning of Mr. Ingram's *Blow*, that a letter which was published in the Public Ledger, had been the cause of a storm of malice against him; it is introduced as a matter of lamentation, which amazes the public the more
because

because they have some reason to suppose it was pen'd by himself, particularly as he assumed so much consequence at St. Paul's Coffee house, as to acquaint the master of it, that he thought Mr. Foot's account of the death absurd, which will better appear by inserting the following.

“ The late enquiry made by the master,
 “ wardens, &c. of surgeons, whether the
 “ blow Mr. Clarke received at Brentford
 “ was the cause of his death, arose at
 “ first by accident,” viz. “ A surgeon
 “ not far from Temple Bar, who has
 “ long been revered for his great abilities,
 “ having an appointment at St.
 “ Paul's coffee house, accidentally took up
 “ the Sessions paper, after pausing some
 “ time he called to the master, and observed
 “ to him, that by the surgeon's
 “ account narrated therein, it appeared
 “ absurd that the prisoners had killed
 “ Clarke, Mr. F—rm—r a surgeon
 “ coming up, he was told the same, next
 “ day Counsellor J—-s of the temple, on
 “ a visit to Mr. Ingram, surgeon, the
 “ discourse turned on this subject, and
 “ the improbability of the convicts being
 “ guilty, which by anatomical descriptions
 “ were made so evident to the
 “ Counsellor, that he acquainted some of

“ the judges with the sentiments of Mr.
 “ Ingram, and told his name, with this
 “ the E— of R——d was made ac-
 “ quainted, and then it was thought ne-
 “ cessary to have a committee of surgeons
 “ on the subject or cause of his death.”

Mr. Ingram (if I mistake not) is a proprietor of the very paper in which it is contained: which is a sufficient reason to justify our believing that Mr. Ingram is the very author of so pompous an advertisement.

Mr. Ingram says, “ to crimes of murder no Royal favour should ever be extended.” He is right in this as he is in saying, “ where there is a want of evidence, innocence should be *unfettered*”; but he is much mistaken in making that a parallel to the present case. Does he mean to shew, that the culprits in this case are innocent, or that there was a defect in evidence: he could have said no more had they been in another country at the time of the election. If there was error, malevolence, or false swearing in the tryal, he had better have indicted the witnesses for perjury, and impeached the whole court. The duty of Mr. Ingram to his king and country could not, it is thought have obliged him to take up his pen upon so invalid a principle. If the culprits had
 never

never been at Brentford in their lives ; had never been knocking-down indiscriminately every body they met with there : had no weapons of death been seen in their hands : had they never been seen at Northampton with sticks in their hands pierced with nails at the ends, supporting the cause of a ministerial nobleman, they certainly would have been innocent. But while it is known notoriously that the reverse is unhappily the fact, what can be thought of a gentleman who will make so lame a defence of them.

To the four general heads or consideration of wounds, as Mr. Ingram calls them, it is observed, first, he ingenuously says, “ some wounds are of themselves mortal ;” secondly, “ wounds not mortal become so in time by neglect ;” thirdly, “ wounds in themselves apparently mortal, by the surgeon’s skill are prevented, and life saved.” But these concessions are foreign to the present dispute, and only introduced to raise an opinion of Mr. Ingram’s abilities. The fourth consideration is very pertinent, where he says, “ contusions on the head, with or without a wound, at first may produce no bad symptoms, yet, in process of time, that life is lost by neglect, which by care might have been saved.” This answers immediately to the opinion which was so

artfully drawn from Mr. Foot in a paper he signed, purporting, that if early care had been taken of Clarke, probably he might have been saved, as contusions in the head, though not mortal in themselves, become so by neglect. This considered, it will be found not to weaken in the least Mr. Foot's opinion, that Clarke died from the blow : nor does it exculpate the perpetrator of that horrid act of violence to the innocent Clarke.

If a ruffian was to divide the artery of Mr. Ingram's arm, and he bled to death, it would be no less a murder, because, had proper assistance been at hand, he might probably have been saved.

Mr. Ingram introduces the account he had of Mrs. Talbot (Clarke's aunt) and some other person with her, that the external wound was like the scratch of a pin. We are not obliged to take this evidence upon Mr. Ingram's word : but suppose it was so (however improbable from the deposition of the two Beales, who upon oath say they found him all of a gore blood) it would be professing great ignorance, as a surgeon, to presume that Clarke did not die of the blow, because the external wound was small.

Mr. Ingram forgets that, in his fourth consideration, he says, “ contusions of
“ the

“ the head, without an appearance of
 “ external violence, or any immediate
 “ bad symptoms, in process of time,
 “ prove mortal.” And farther, Mr. In-
 gram allows that “ Mrs. Talbot’s friends
 “ recommended a surgeon before any
 “ symptoms of pressure came on.” For
 what was this? To take care of a wound
 no more than the scratch of a pin!

Mr. Ingram tells us “ Clarke went on
 “ Friday, the day after receiving the
 “ blow, to his master’s.” Allowed. He
 stayed but little time, complained much
 of his head, as appears from several wit-
 nesses upon oath: he went again on Satur-
 day, was unable to do business, and on
 Sunday was confined to his bed, his fe-
 brile symptoms increased, a vomiting
 came on Sunday noon, and returned in
 the evening, with all the indications of an
 oppressed brain.

Mr. Ingram’s attempt to persuade the
 public that this fever, rigor, &c. were
 brought on from excessive drinking, and
 irregularity at and about Brentford on the
 Thursday, is an extraordinary supposi-
 tion, when we consider it was almost
 three days from the election before these
 violent symptoms appeared, too long for
 the effects of a large quantity of liquor
 not to be perceived!

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It is thought Mr. Ingram makes very free with the witnesses upon the trial, who severally depose he was a very sober young man, and drank very little that day; the quantity is by them particularly mentioned. If it is proved he drank a large quantity, these witnesses are perjured.

Mr. Ingram might have avoided giving this offence, and with as much truth have seconded the assertion of the modest *counter Appellant*, who says, “ a particular
“ bad fever was very rife at that quarter
“ of the town in which Clarke lived,
“ and of which many died, and supposes
“ Clarke one of the number,” the author of which deserves no further notice.

Mr. Ingram presumes that the vomiting which seized Clarke on Sunday noon was caused by his eating a stale egg on Saturday for supper, for he says, “ Clarke was
“ fond of eggs, and often eat them.” The less probably was he to be imposed upon by a bad one: and if the egg had disagreed with his stomach, it would have shewn its effects before Sunday noon. But, to put this out of dispute, Mr. Ingram himself says, “ the vomiting returned on Sunday evening.” The egg, we may suppose, had been brought from his stomach before this. Whence then this second
cause

cause of vomiting? It may be answered, with truth, from the pressure upon the brain, by its inflamed and consequently thickened membranes.

Of this internal injury Mr. Starling, apothecary, who was called in on Monday, seems to have had a just apprehension: and Mr. Ingram informs us, Mr. Starling repeatedly urged the calling-in of a surgeon. Had he received the idea of Clarke's illness which Mr. Ingram supposes he did,——chirurgical assistance would have been unnecessary, and, doubting his own abilities, he would have desired the advice of a physician. At first Clarke and his aunt were against having a surgeon, but, in Mr. Ingram's own words, Mr. Starling pressing the necessity, Mr. Bromfield was called in on Tuesday. He ordered a glyster, and an oily opening mixture, but did not examine the wound, because the hair was matted with the balsam, &c.

In the afternoon of the same day Mr. Bromfield sent his son to inform them that his head must be shaved, that he might examine the wound. Why shave his head if the external wound was no more than the scratch of a pin, nor any injury apprehended within the skull? His head was not shaved, as presuming it was too late for assistance, (he having all the appearance

pearance of a man that had but a few hours to live) they thought it imprudent therefore to give him this unnecessary trouble. And accordingly we find he died the next morning about two or three o'clock.

Mr. Foot was called in by the Coroner's Jury on Thursday the 15th of December to examine the dead body of Clarke. He enquired for the surgeon who attended him in his illness, and was informed that Mr. Bromfield had been with him the day before his death, and had been entreated to be present at the examination, but had refused coming or sending any of his assistants, supposing it would be an Old Bailey business.

Mr. Foot, after having enquired of the apothecary, and the friends of Mr. Clarke, what were the attendant symptoms and appearances in Clarke's illness, with the time, place, and manner he received the blow, looking upon this, as every person about him did, to be the cause of his death, he proceeded to examine the body: which his enemies must allow he did as a man of ingenuity, and as a surgeon. He deposes, that he found upon the top of the head, by the sagittal future, upon the right parietal bone, a contused wound; that the scalp was elevated for a considerable way round the wound and the pericranium

cranium much inflamed and separated from the skull; he examined for a fissure, or fracture, but found neither; then removing the whole of the scalp, examined the os occipitis, in compliance to an old doctrine, (a proof of his great carefulness) for what has been called a contra-fissure or fracture, but found neither.

Mr. Foot then removed the bone, and found the dura mater greatly inflamed and detached from the bone under the part where the blow had been given. Removing this membrane, he found a quantity of extravasated coagulated blood upon the brain, from the ruptured vessels of the pia mater, which was also much inflamed.

If the depositions of surgeons in similar cases were to be examined, it would be difficult to find out an evidence so clear: it speaks the anatomist. He particularizes appearances, and the situation of the parts, in a manner that will ever do him credit as a surgeon.

Before we consider Mr. Foot's evidence, as this examination is intended for the public perusal, it cannot be amiss to give a concise description of the parts of which it is necessary to make such frequent mention; as it will thereby be more intelligible

gible to those who are not conversant in anatomy.

The pericranium is a thin membrane which lies under the scalp immediately upon the bones of the skull, to which it is closely connected by innumerable blood-vessels, which pass into the substance of the bone.

The bones of the head are made of two plates external and internal, between which is the diploe or mediotullium: this must have been observed by the most inattentive; and it may be recollected it has a spongy appearance between the external and internal lamellæ of the bones.

Upon this cellular part it is that the vessels of the pericranium minutely divide and inosculate or join the vessels of the dura mater.

The dura mater is a thick strong unelastic membrane, lining the inside of the skull, and is firmly connected to it by numberless vessels which pass into the bone, and, as before observed, unite there with those of the pericranium, so that there is a circulation between the two membranes.

The pia mater is a very thin membrane lying under the dura mater, unconnected to it except at the sinusses. It immediately surrounds the brain, and is made chiefly
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vessels which divide extremely minute upon it before they enter the brain, to which it closely adheres. And the brain, with the meninges or coverings, i. e. the pia and dura mater, completely fill the skull, so that there is no vacuum between the bones and the contained parts. The connection therefore with each other will readily account for the mischief that must consequently arise from external violence on any of them.

It may be concluded from the appearance which Mr. Foot found in the case of the deceased Clarke, that the blow was of sufficient force to bring his head to the ground, from his hair being full of sand. There was no fissure or fracture, and probably no immediate extravasation, as the symptoms of pressure, we find, came on *gradatim*, and were the consequence of inflammation upon the membranes of the brain by the blow. The vessels which pass from the pericranium through the skull to the dura mater were so much injured as to throw them into a state of inflammation. This must impede the circulation, and, by encreasing, cause an intire cessation; and, of course, the dura mater, so far as the cessation takes place, must loose its hold to the skull in-

ternally, and continue advancing to a state of suppuration.

The pericranium must unavoidably be detached externally, and will always serve as a prognostic of the separation of the dura mater.

In all inflammations tending to suppuration there will be a fever, according to its degree, and the parts concerned.

In inflammations of the dura mater the febrile symptoms will be great, attended with those of an oppressed brain.

After a mortal blow upon the head it is not always possible to ascertain the time from which the first appearances of injury may begin. There is the best authority for saying, it may be full ten days before the patient has any considerable complaints.

It is quite otherwise where the violence of the blow ruptures the vessels; they then shed their contents, and give immediate symptoms of pressure, which may occur with or without a fracture.

Upon examining the heads of people who have died from inflammation upon the membranes of the brain from outward violence; it is often found, as in the case of Clarke, that the pericranium is separated immediately from the part where the dura mater is detached; and, accord-
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ing to the time the patient has lived, we shall find the suppuration advanced.

If the patient survives but little time (as Clarke did) after the inflammation is advanced, there will only be discoverable upon the dura mater a degree of inflammation with perhaps a small quantity of glary fluid.

It is generally found, as Mr. Foot has observed, that the pia mater is inflamed in such case; which may proceed from the obstruction of the surrounding parts.

If this be considerable, it may be readily conceived that the vessels of this very tender membrane will be ruptured: whence an extravasation must happen, which will accelerate the death of the patient.

There is no getting a foreknowledge when this will occur, as it depends upon the impetus of the circulating fluids overcoming the resistance of the vessels.

In the case of Clarke it might happen some time before his death, or in his last agonies, as Mr. Ingram observes. This is immaterial. The cause was evident, and had it never happened, Clarke would have died from a suppuration of the dura mater, which was altogether unavoidable.

Mr. Ingram allows an obligation to Mr. Foot for his judicious examinations

tions of Clarke's head ; but says, it would have been more so, had he as minutely examined the thorax and abdomen.

If Mr. Foot had wanted the knowledge of the situation of the different viscera; or had he longed for a dissection of a muscle in any part of Clarke's body, there is no doubt he might have made an excuse for such a research, but it would have been highly imprudent before a coroner's jury.

Mr. Foot had not a doubt of the cause of Clarke's death, as we find from his opinion, founded upon the examination of the body.

Mr. Ingram advances, that censure ought not to be cast on Mr. Foot, if we dissent from his opinion, since, in the prognostics of distempers, the ablest physicians have sometimes been mistaken. This was not a prognostic in a distemper, but an opinion founded upon demonstrable facts.

If we advert, says Ingram, to matters in the law, even there we shall find that decrees of the ablest chancellor have been justly reversed. Law and surgery are very different: The errors of the one being attributed to the inaccuracy of times, uncertainty of descents, and a variety of incidental

cidental accidents, (which is a field for precision and foreknowledge, particularly as to real facts, which can sometimes only be ascertained by the perspicuity of a judge, where oaths clash): The other is an object before your face, and, according to the meanest rules of anatomy, causes absolute in themselves are commonly soon discovered.

Mr. Ingram says, “ Now let us proceed to probe, with all possible tenderness, the cause of Clarke’s death.” “ If, says he, the blow was the cause of the several appearances described by Mr. Foot, we may apprehend the cause was a small concussion.”

Mr. Ingram may apprehend as he pleases. It is presumed the generality of mankind will soon comprehend the motives of this apprehension from Mr. Foot’s evidence. It is believed there was not any immediate extravasation or concussion. But of this we have spoken already.

Mr. Ingram, resuming that part of Mr. Foot’s evidence where he says he found the hair full of sand, sarcastically says, “ He cannot apprehend this sand was the cause of his death.” This is another ingenious apprehension from Mr. Ingram, who must know that Mr. Foot was particular

ticular in this as a corroborating circumstance that the man fell at the time he received the blow.

Mr. Ingram proceeds industriously to draw us into a doubt of the propriety of sand remaining in Clarke's hair to his death, by enumerating the cleanliness of the aunt, the care of his friends in washing his head, &c. but forgets he has before told us the reason Mr. Bromfield did not examine the wound was, because the hair was matted with the balsams &c. that had been applied, under which it is presumed the sand was concealed.

Mr. Ingram, in answer to Mr. Foot's affirmation that the pericranium was much inflamed, says, "Slight wounds
" when neglected or washed with spirits
" certainly become inflamed." But Mr. Ingram does not remember to follow Mr. Foot in this part of his evidence where he says, the pericranium was also detached from the skull as was the dura mater internally, which was very much inflamed, and a quantity of coagulated blood under it.

It may be necessary to remark that Mr. Foot found the extravasated blood in a coagulated state, as a time-serving gentleman of Lincoln's inn with the assistance
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of Mr. R—— one of the examining surgeons, has endeavoured to prove in a letter signed Cleomenes, published in the Public Advertiser, that the extravasation was in a fluid state, and that it might happen from Mr. Foot's wounding the vessels in sawing the head. Strange assertion ! But if this had been the case, it could have no weight when we consider the part, where the extravasation was found.

Mr. Ingram supposes, that by a blow the dura mater was detached from the inside of the bones. " We might safely," continues he, " say its vessels must be broken. " In this case where would the extravasation be found ? Why truly not under the dura mater, but between it and the bones, but for the extravasation to be under the dura mater, and not above is feared to be a mistake. See" Ingram's " Practical Cases, on wounds, fractures, &c. on the head." We may treat Mr. Ingram's cases as courts of law do *Nelson's Lutwiche*.

Before we have this observation from Mr. Ingram, he tells us, " he called in " a little anatomical knowledge."—It is wonderful he did not discover that the connecting vessels of the dura mater and pericranium were liable to distraction from external violence without being rup-

tured; whence the diameters of those vessels must be lessened; an obstruction and gradual inflammation follow, and the membrane be constantly separated without any extravasation on the dura mater.

Had Clarke lived some little time longer, there is no doubt matter would have formed from the inflammation; but he lived but three days after that became considerable.

Mr. Ingram, before he concludes, puts this question; “ Might not his death
 “ arise from a surfeit producing a violent
 “ inflammatory fever, this from travel-
 “ ling without food, instead thereof,
 “ drinking wine, porter, rum, brandy,
 “ &c. “ I have heard,” says he, “ of people
 “ over walking themselves, drinking too
 “ much, and dying as it were sudden-
 “ ly.”

He must have heard too of the sudden death of young Allen who was a sober young man. It is sufficiently proved Clarke was such. Why then this more than cruel blow to his memory from Mr. Ingram?

Mr. Ingram is entitled to praise where he says, he leaves some of his remarks to
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the reader, which alleviates, in some measure, the animadversions made upon the motives for taking up a pen in so feeble a cause.

Mr. Ingram, for the sake of *grubbing up the luxuriousness of a false imagination*, and *manuring the promising medical plants*, has selected and annexed to his *Blow*, several aphorisms which are planted in *his* chirurgical and anatomical lectures. —Kindly done !

But, though, perhaps, no professors have made greater discoveries and improvements in their peculiar studies than those of anatomy and surgery of the present century have, yet it must appear evident to all who have consulted the most eminent modern writers on these subjects, that Mr. Ingram is entirely unacquainted with them.

I shall make some short observations on four of his aphorisms, as the subject here treated of is of a very public nature, and Mr. Ingram, with seeming consequence, and under a pompous title, gives them in a very dictatorial manner : For was this little piece designed only for students in surgery it would be an affront to attempt to refute them.

A P H O R I S M I.

Mr. Ingram says, “ the pericranium
 “ cannot loose its attachments to the
 “ bone, without the skull is either de-
 “ pressed, fractured or fissured.”

It appears by this aphorism not convenient for Mr. Ingram to recollect the consequence of inflammation, by which the connecting medium may become sloughy and the pericranium loose its attachments when there is neither fissure, fracture, or depression. The pericranium is equally liable to disease as is the periostium, which is frequently found separated where no external violence has been offered to the bone it covered.

A P H O R I S M II.

“ The dura mater is never separated
 “ from the inside of the head by a blow
 “ without one of the three accidents
 “ above, namely fracture, fissure, or de-
 “ pression.”

A P H O-

It would be happy for mankind was this true : but every day's practice proves the contrary.

The order of the connecting vessels of the dura mater may be disturbed by external violence, and their office destroyed *gradatim* by inflammation ; from whence may arise a detachment of that membrane when there is neither fissure, fracture, or depression.

A P H O R I S M III.

“ Whenever the dura mater either by
 “ depression, fissure or fracture loses its
 “ adhesions, there will be from its blood
 “ vessels broken an extravasation between
 “ the bone and it.”

We have already endeavoured to convey the opinions of undoubted authority that the dura mater from inflammation may loose its attachment without an extravasation.

A P H O-

APHORISM IV.

“ In a separation of the dura mater,
 “ the extravasation cannot be under it
 “ without being above.”

If Mr. Ingram will allow that the pia mater may be ruptured by distention, and is not convinced that the dura mater may loose its attachment from inflammation, let him *call in a second time a little anatomical knowledge*, and read attentively Mr. Pott, and it is believed he will then wish to recall his *aphorisms*; of which is given herein, I think, a sufficient specimen, to prevent the reader the mortification of probing more of them.

C A S E S.

Morgagni, on the causes and seats of diseases, when speaking of cases which proved mortal from trifling causes, or when the mischief was confined to the scalp only and the cranium was unhurt, amongst a number of cases relates this, Letter LI. article 3.

A man who was near 60 years of age received a blow with a stick, a little above the forehead and the left temple, no mor-
 bid

bid symptoms appearing then, or on the following days, so that he came by himself every day to the hospital of saint Mary de morte at Bologna, where the usual remedies were applied to his wound, which was supposed to be no otherwise than cutaneous, and of no importance; and indeed four out of five of these days he continued in the market selling chestnuts, according to his usual custom in a very cool season: but about the sixth day his wound became worse, and a fever, attended with a coldness and rigor, came on; and this returning every day in the same manner without any other symptoms being added, than a slight gangrene of the wounded parts, the man was gradually carried off thereby.

On cutting out the upper part of the cranium, no sign of injury could be observed on that bone, even upon the most strict examination; yet the meninges were found to be sanious, and somewhat thickened; the cerebrum which lay beneath the thickened parts of the meninges, had contracted a very evident though slight injury, for externally the substance thereof was corrupted to the size of a small vetch, and in the middle it seemed to be perforated with a small foramen,

men, which together with the corruption; did not descend lower than to a very small depth.

From Mr. POTT, CASE 37.

“ A boy between three and four years
 “ old, the son of a merchant in my neigh-
 “ bourhood, was at play with his bro-
 “ ther on a bed, and fell from thence on
 “ a soft bedside carpet; he pitched on
 “ his head, and complained of being sick
 “ and giddy, but having vomitted, was
 “ soon after so well that no further no-
 “ tice was taken of his fall; on the
 “ fourth day from this, his sickness and
 “ giddiness returned, Dr. Lee was sent
 “ for, who not regarding the fall as hav-
 “ ing any share in his complaint, gave
 “ him an emetic, and ordered him some
 “ of those medicines which are called
 “ nervous; for the space of five days
 “ from this time, he continued to be now
 “ and then sick and giddy, and was very
 “ unwilling to stir or be stirred; on the
 “ 11th he complained he could not see,
 “ and that evening had a sort of fit; on
 “ the 13th his right arm became useless;
 “ on the 15th he could not stand, from
 “ this

“ this evening he became stupid, and on
 “ the eighteenth expired.

“ *Between the dura and pia mater* was
 “ a considerable quantity of bloody serum
 “ about the basis of the brain.”

C A S E XXXVIII.

“ A woman came to my house com-
 “ plaining that her husband had kicked
 “ her down stairs, and had broke her
 “ skull: on the back part of her head
 “ was a small wound, but the pericranium
 “ was not divided, nor was there any
 “ reason to suppose the bone to be hurt:
 “ for twelve days she remained without
 “ any general complaint, but on the thir-
 “ teenth she began to be giddy and dim-
 “ sighted.

“ I took her into the hospital, where
 “ she was taken all possible care of, but
 “ she became first paralytic, and then co-
 “ matose, and so died. The ventricles of
 “ the brain were full of extravasated
 “ serum, and near the origin of the me-
 “ dulla oblongata, was a large lump of
 “ coagulated blood.

MORGAGNI.—Letter LI. Art. 5.

“ A young man, of about thirty years
 “ of age, had two wounds inflicted by
 “ cutting instruments; the one on the
 “ left side of the forehead, the other op-
 “ posite thereto, as it were in the occi-
 “ put. He had a vain irritation to vo-
 “ mit. He died about the twenty-fifth
 “ day.

“ In dissecting the head, nothing was
 “ found, either internally or externally,
 “ that was worthy of remark, as far as
 “ related to the wound of the occiput;
 “ but that on the forehead shewed a
 “ sanies about it, betwixt the skin and
 “ the cranium, which in that part had
 “ eroded the pericranium and the inter-
 “ nal surface of the skin itself, like a
 “ *herpes exedens*, and had in some mea-
 “ sure separated the anterior, and at the
 “ same time superior part of the tem-
 “ poral muscle. But internally, although
 “ the os frontis shewed no more marks of
 “ injury than the os occipitis did, yet
 “ betwixt the bone and the dura mater,
 “ there was a sanies to the quantity of
 “ two drachms, which had eroded that
 “ membrane. And, indeed, on the right
 “ side,

“ side, under the upper part of the cra-
 “ nium, in the interstices of the blood-
 “ vessels of the same membrane, was
 “ found a matter similar to sanies, but
 “ thicker. The other parts within the
 “ cranium were in a natural state.”

In both these cases of Morgagni's death was occasioned by blows, without immediate injury to the cranium or integuments; notwithstanding which, so able, so experienced an anatomist and surgeon, did not in the least doubt the cause, and assigns good reasons for the immediate bad symptoms not offering, which are these in his own words; “ You will ask
 “ me in the next place, why the blood,
 “ which was extravasated within the
 “ skull, did not begin to give tokens of
 “ its effusion immediately, instead of
 “ beginning so many days after? Without
 “ doubt, because very small drops, distil-
 “ ling from a small vessel slowly and by
 “ degrees, could not arrive to such a
 “ quantity as to be injurious till after
 “ some days had passed, and at the same
 “ time could not arrive to such a state of
 “ corruption as to vitiate the meninges
 “ and brain.”

And every body must allow the variety of appearances and efforts of nature, which

different parts and different constitutions will afford, particularly with regard to the fever and latent violent symptoms. I would here beg the reader to observe the similarity of effects, and I would choose it should be from the authority of so great an author, that censure may not be laid on an anonymous writer, by supposing him capable of coining what might suit his purpose. The plea in favour of the defendants, is, Mr. Clarke had a fever, and no comatose, convulsive or paralytic affections before death; and that these are for ever attendants on injuries, when the fever arises from extravasation on the brain. But this too may vary according to the length of time, particularities of the part wounded, the treatment, and disposition of the body both at the time present and afterwards. But for satisfaction let this quotation suffice: Morgagni, speaking of two similar accidents (or nearly so) which had not similar appearances, though both fatal, yet at different spaces, says, —

“ But if you ask me why, of the two
 “ first whose histories I have written, he
 “ whom the fever seized the soonest was
 “ carried off by no disorder besides this;
 “ but he who was seized with a fever
 “ later, was carried off by so many other
 “ very

“ very violent disorders in conjunction
 “ with it; many reasons may be given
 “ for this difference: first, the delay it-
 “ self, whereby both the quantity and
 “ depravity of the extravasated matter,
 “ although latent in the concocted pus,
 “ was, without doubt, increased; in the
 “ second place, the different disposition of
 “ the humours and parts in different bodies
 “ and different ages: and, finally, the dif-
 “ ferent kind of violence applied by the
 “ throwing of a stone, and by the blow of
 “ stick.”

This at once sufficiently establishes that
 part of the dispute.—To proceed fur-
 ther, have we had any deposition on oath
 that these very fatal symptoms did not
 exist? We know so much as this, that Mr.
 Clarke died delirious, and had Mr. Brom-
 field paid a proper attention, might not
 he have discovered some other charac-
 teristic, whereby to denote that the deli-
 rium was different from what commonly
 attends inflammatory fevers. But the
 symptoms are not in dispute: it was from
 the present appearance of things, that
 Mr. Foot was to give his opinion. He was
 prudent in making enquiry into the symp-
 toms, and I am sure every honest man
 will

will allow that such enquiry served to confirm, rather than invalidate, his opinion, as it must have done every one's else who had not been educated under that illustrious and sage preceptor, *Ingram*, whose works adorn the shops of chandlers, instead of the libraries of the learned.



S T R I C T U R E S

U P O N

Mr. BROMFIELD'S DEFENCE.

AFTER the many calls Mr. Bromfield has had from the public to vindicate his conduct relative to the affair of Mr. Clarke, and after the great length of time he has taken to collect his utmost efforts, the disappointment has been very considerable to his friends, to find his defence is nothing more than the affidavits of his pupil Mr. Wren, his Son, and Mrs. Talbot, which are spun to a great length, and contain nothing to his purpose.

Mr. Bromfield's apologizing by the want of health for not attempting to exculpate himself sooner, will be received favourably while we consider how important a task it is for him, to collect three such affidavits, which to be sure must have been a work of time, and might have proved

proved too much for a *conscious* man, who is in an ill state of health.

Mr. Bromfield's son's, and Mr. Wren's affidavits, purport only that Mrs. Talbot sent to Mr. Bromfield to examine the dead body of Clarke. His answer by Mr. Wren to the messenger was, that his illness prevented his going, but that he would send some body for that purpose. They further purport, that Mr. Bromfield desired Mr. Wren first to ask Mr. Bayford, surgeon, or if he was absent, Mr. Underwood, surgeon, to examine the body.

It would be extremely pleasing to know whether Mr. Bromfield did not immediately recall this command, as we do not find that either Mr. Bayford or Mr. Underwood ever were asked to attend. It appears probable, that Mr. Bromfield immediately gave this counter order, when we consider his son a student in surgery, and his pupil a young man not void of necessary curiosity, both of them in health, and but a little distance from that part where the body lay.

Mrs. Talbot's affidavit purports that Mr. Bromfield never did persuade her to have the body buried without inspection. This we may allow, as Mr. Bromfield's
health

health prevented his seeing Mrs. Talbot. But it will not appear so clear that Mr. Bromfield had no emissary on this *honourable* employ: indeed it is evident he had from the deposition of Thomas Bredal, taken before Mr. Lane, who says, that the aunt declared to him the 20th of December last, that Mr. Bromfield had recommended the burial of the body without the trouble of inspection. And this is not the only witness.

Why was Mr. Bromfield so desirous of getting Mr. Foot's paper, purporting that there was a probability of Clarke's life having been saved with early care?—Had Mr. Bromfield a conviction of the innocence of Balf and Macquirk? If he had—how remarkably did his *humanity* appear!

Why did not Mr. Bromfield give an answer to that part of Mr. Foot's conversation with him, wherein he said, he supposed the man had been lost through the ignorance of the apothecary who treated a concussion of the brain as a nervous fever? Can it be supposed—that he might not give *further* offence to Mr. Starling?

Was it generous in Mr. Bromfield to procure the deposition of Mr. Wren, weak as it is, by stratagem?

G

As

As a proof of Mr. Bromfield's honour and ingenuity in his profession, let the following heads in the famous case between him and Aylett determine.

Mr. Aylett, surgeon at Windsor, and Mr. Howard were called at the same time to one Mr. Benwell of Eton, on account of an accident which he had met with ; — After some time it was agreed to call in another surgeon, and Mr. Aylett wrote to Mr. Bromfield, whom he took to be his friend, to be consulted on this occasion. The determination of this meeting was the taking off Mr. Benwell's leg. The operation was properly the business of Mr. Howard. But as he declined it, it became Mr. Aylett's, who provided his own apparatus for that purpose as soon as he could. But! to his very great surprize, he found Mr. Bromfield prepared for the operation.

It may be necessary to observe, that Mr. Bromfield was called in as a consulting surgeon, and as such would have had the usual fees : But could he have smuggled the operation, the advantages must have been considerable. Mr. Aylett however, had too much sense and spirit to give it up, so that, after great altercation, it was agreed for Mr. Aylett to take off the
leg,

leg, and Mr. Bromfield to take up the vessels. After this the care of the patient ought to have been left to Mr. Aylett. But we find Mr. Bromfield left his apprentice, against Mr. Aylett's order, with the patient all night, and ordered him medicines without the privity or approbation of Mr. Aylett, and took the further liberty of opening and dressing the stump in his absence: By which means Mr. Aylett was discharged from attendance on his *own* patient. This ungentleman-like behaviour so justly raised Mr. Aylett's resentment, that he insisted upon satisfaction. After many letters had passed, and much altercation, Mr. Bromfield asked Mr. Aylett's pardon before several of his friends, promising him his assistance to bring him to the business of the same family, from which he had been the instrument of removing him, and signed the following paper :

C O P Y.

“ I acknowledge that my conduct to-
 “ wards Mr. Aylett, relative to some ef-
 “ fential forms of business, was irregular,
 “ and that I did not thereby intend him
 “ the least injury or affront.

G 2

“ That

“ That I had no pretensions to take off
 “ Mr. Benwell’s leg, on the sole depu-
 “ tation of Mr. Howard, without Mr.
 “ Aylett’s concurrence, nor ought any
 “ medicines to have been given without
 “ his approbation.

“ That I ought not to have dressed the
 “ stump, the first time, without Mr.
 “ Aylett’s being present, as I find he kept
 “ himself in waiting for that purpose ;
 “ for all which I ask his pardon.

W. BROMFIELD.

Eton, June 10, 1759.

If the reader is farther curious in this particular, I refer him to the case published by Doddsley in Pall-mall, in the year 1759, by Mr. Aylett himself.

Weak are the efforts of a pen in a cause so clear as this is, while it endeavours to lay down such rules as bear evident proofs of their own deficiency : and happy (it is feared) would it be for a set of desperate, inhuman, and malignant men, could they possibly persuade the world, in this more than singular case, that what they have done is right, divested of every art or chicanery. But though their endeavours, which have been forcible,
 were

were poured upon the people in torrents, through duped and biaſſed men, miſerable would it be for this kingdom, as a generous and free people, to ſtoop their ſhoulders to ſuch execrable loads. The people in general are not thus to be impoſed upon: they ſtruggle bravely when once they ſtand up in defence of their rights and underſtandings againſt miniſterial incroachments. The preſent thought ariſes from a ſenſe that, in this caſe, there ſhould be men of intereſt and zeal enough to ſpread a doubt in the mind of one of the Beſt of Kings, from the opinion of ten men, who made their report, without any public reaſon aſſigned, different to that of a whole court of juſtice, and many gentlemen of the faculty.

No part of Mr. Foot's testimony at the Old Bailey, or judgment before the examiners, hath been refuted. He is not ſaid to be miſtaken; and though Mr. Ingram affects a tenderneſs for Mr. Foot's genius, which he allows to be a *blooming one*, it would have been more pleaſing, had the rectitude of his ſubject furniſhed him with materials for proving that Mr. Foot's judgment was diametrically erroneous; which, as it has not, the public are more enflamed with the attempt,

as

as many think that Mr. Ingram's honesty, and not ability, ought to have induced him to have been dormant on the occasion, and not, like gusts of foul air, so daringly have blown up the coals of—oppression.

It is disagreeable to be obliged to say so much of Mr. Ingram's pamphlet as I have : but while a whole country is open-mouthed upon the matter, 'tis thought the more justifiable ; and it is hoped will prevent any apology for it.

Had his Gracious Majesty, out of his wonted mercy and humanity, been lead to have pardoned these culprits, from a consideration that they were a part of a riotous assembly, and that the whole assembly were equally liable to punishment, had they all been apprehended as accessaries, it would have been received with greater satisfaction than those doubts, which are too great to pass unnoticed.

God forbid that Mr. Ingram should be at all lessened in the esteem of his friends on the occasion, since his years *as a man in the winter of his life*, and experience, *as a man of fertile genius*, entitle him to some notice.

It

It is supposed that had these unhappy wretches (*B.* and *M.*) been detected on the other side of *faction*, they would, probably, have suffered in the first instance; and sooner, it is believed, to strike a terror into every man who was an opponent to the measures of government.—And it is indeed very much questioned whether Mr. Ingram would have indulged a thought of addressing himself to the public, had it not been a political affair; though it had been great to have done it more for the sake of exculpating, or rather remitting the sentence (though universally satisfactory in law) of two accustomed rioters.

'Tis Truly alarming that the examining surgeons, who were convoked upon so solemn an occasion, should have lost sight of so much reason, or rather that they should be so regardless of the result of their conduct, by not maturely considering what the rest of the faculty and mankind in general would think of them, if they acted irrationally; and that, as men of allowed abilities in their profession (some of them no less remarkable for their good deportment in life, than esteemed for their great honour and integrity (they should be so very unguarded (if not influenced) as flagrantly to pollute their
unim-

unimpeached judgments ; and more particularly, that a member of that body, who has wrote, with more accuracy and truth, upon wounds of the head, and its consequences, than any man before him (for which he must be revered) should coincide with the remaining part of such body, in a case which he himself hath so clearly exemplified. His description of similar cases to that of Clarke's are repeatedly, through his book, very much the same with the evidence given by Mr. Foot, both with respect to symptoms whilst living, and upon examination after death. To corroborate which it was thought right to transcribe a case or two from his work, and to join with them some few others from undoubted authority.

Farther remonstrance than is absolutely necessary, may be attended with prolixity. And as conciseness is said to be the mother of certainty, it would be needless to animadvert too much upon the present subject.

Where sincerity dwells apologies cease ; so where doubts are absent, facts must prevail. In this there needs little to support them : they are carefully stated, and
that

that with very different motives than to sport with the judgment of the reader.

To conclude : The author of *this Dissection* wishes that the public in general, for whose sake it was written, and whom he would by no means knowingly mislead, will give it an impartial perusal.—Indulged with this, he shall totally disregard whatever censures may be passed upon it by any tools of power, or the formidable authors of a Review, whose fruitful talents generally lead them to explode what they do not endeavour to understand.

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